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In his preface the writer claims one accomplishment—the ability to use his eyes—and the two hundred pages of his book attest plainly that during this journey he used his eyes to the best possible advantage.

His description of Madeira is delightful, and his reader goes along with him through Spain—into Algiers—to Malta and through the Holy Land with great interest and enjoyment.

Personal experiences give a peculiar attraction to this book, and the reader who wishes the frank expression of a knowledge gained by faithful observation can spend a pleasant hour in reading it.

MATERIALS FOR A HISTORY OF THE WITHER FAMILY. By the Rev. Reginald Bigg-Wither, M. A., Rector of Wonston, Hants, Winchester. Warren & Son, 85 High Street 1907, pp. 270, with 29 chart pedigrees and 34 illustrations.

RECORDS OF ROMSEY ABBEY. AN ACCOUNT OF THE BENEDICTINE HOUSE OF NUNS, WITH NOTES ON THE PARISH CHURCH AND TOWN (A. D. 907-1558). Compiled from Manuscript and Printed Records. By Henry G. D. Liveing, M. A., Vicar of Hyde, Winchester. Warren & Son, 85 High Street, 1906, pp. 342, with 39 illustrations.

Messers Warren & Son, of Winchester, England, have made, in these two volumes, valuable additions to our collection in regard to English genealogy and antiquities.

The family of Wither, of which Withers is of course, only a variant, can be traced to a Lancashire origin in the Twelfth Century. Mr. Bigg-Wither has made a most careful study of the various English lines with which he is connected, and presented the results of his studies in attractive and intelligible form. All who are interested in the family of Wither will find here an immense store of information. No attempt has been made to trace the English ancestry of the Virginia family of Withers (who came from Lancaster); but quite a full account of the Dinwiddie county branch is given. There are a number of pedigrees of families connected with that of Wither.

During the past year the town of Romsey in Hampshire, celebrated with imposing ceremonies the one thousandth anniversary of the founding of the Abbey by Edward the Elder son and successor to Alfred the Great. It was therefore most fitting that there should be ready before the commemoration a scholarly history of the ancient foundation. The work of the Vicar of Hyde has evidently been a labor of love, and no pains have been spared to make the history of the Abbey as complete and authoritative as possible. The life of a great nunnery through the six hundred years of its active existence is full of interest.

Both books are handsomely illustrated.